Launching of 'Food for Work' programme in drought hit areas

*58. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Food for Work" programme has been launched in the drought hit areas in some states;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any record of the implementation of the work and distribution of rice are being maintained in those areas; and

(d) what other steps are being taken for the implementation of Food for Work programme in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) The Food for Work programme was introduced in January, 2001 in order to make foodgrains available, as part of wages, to the rural poor in 8 drought affected States, namely, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. The foodgrains were lifted by all the States, except Uttaranchal. Later, the Food for Work programme was extended to cover other calamities like floods, earthquake. Subsequently, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Kerala were added to the list of the affected States.

The total quantity of foodgrains so far allocated to the 11 States is 28.63 lakhs tones, out of which 22.45 lakh tones have been lifted from FCI godowns for distribution, as part of wages, to the rural poor. The percentage of foodgrains lifted is 78.44 and the percentage of foodgrains distributed, against lifting, is 60.28.

The Guidelines to be followed for implementation of the Food for

Work programme are contained in the Scheme. The records of lifting, storage, transportation and distribution of foodgrains (Rice or Wheat) are being maintained at the District level. The Relief Commissioner/Collector/DRDA of the State concerned are required to submit Utilization Certificate to the Ministry of Rural Development and to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Programme is being regularly monitored through Monthly Progress Reports in the prescribed format which are to be submitted the State Governments concerned by the 10th of every month.

Meeting with State Governments on the issue of terrorism

*59. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last high level meeting called by Home Ministry to discuss the issue of terrorism with the representatives of State Governments;

(b) the details thereof including the agenda of the meeting and also the names of the representatives of State Governments;

(c) what were the views expressed by each of the State Government on this issue;

(d) what was the consensus arrived at in the meeting; and

(e) what are the details of steps taken by State Governments in order to combat terrorism in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security was held on 17th November, 2001. Almost all the States except those of Goa and Meghalaya were represented at the Conference. This was preceded by a meeting of Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all States/UTs on the subject of Internal Security, on 5th October, 2001. The threat of terrorism and the strategies to combat it dominated the discussions in both the meetings.

While sensitizing the States about various challenges in the internal